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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **THE HOLLAND GROUP, INC.** [US/US]; 467 Ottawa Avenue, Post Office Box 2099, Holland, MI 49422-2099 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **FLATER, James, H.** [US/US]; 4680 Beech Street, Holland, MI 49423

(US). **HUNGERINK, Gerald, W.** [US/US]; 4682 Beech Street, Holland, MI 49423-8924 (US). **HOEK, Steven, L.** [US/US]; 2270 Sunset Bluff Drive, Holland, MI 49424 (US). **HOWE, Jason, D., C.** [US/US]; 768 North Meadow Drive, Holland, MI 49423 (US). **GINOCCHIO, Michael, H.** [US/US]; 17282 Timber Dunes Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417 (US).

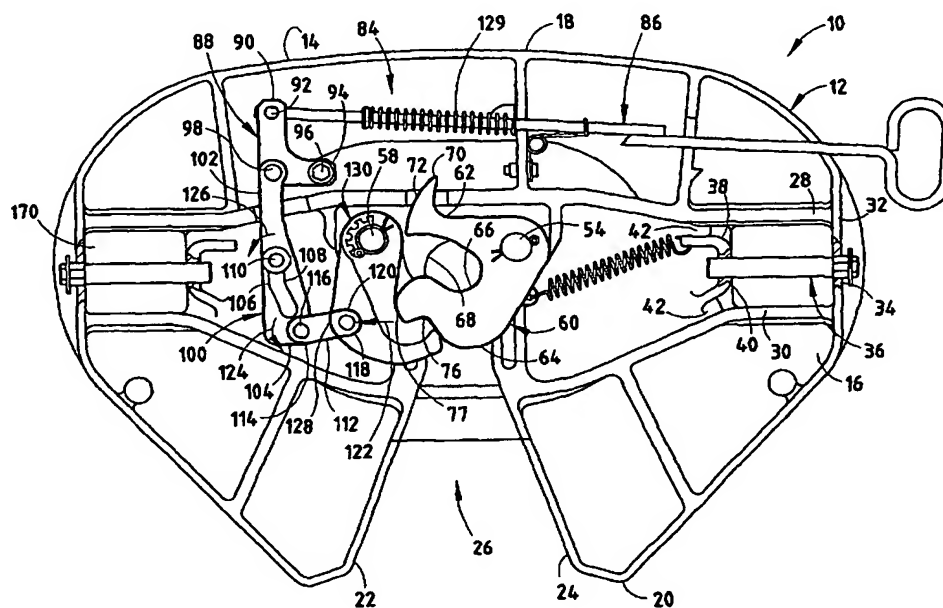
(74) Agent: **KAPTEYN, Jeffrey, S.**; Price, Heneveld, Cooper, DeWitt & Litton, 695 Kenmoor, S.E., P.O. Box 2567, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-2567 (US).

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(54) Title: **LIGHTWEIGHT FIFTH WHEEL HITCH ASSEMBLY**



(57) Abstract: A fifth wheel hitch assembly includes a hitch plate having a rearward end that defines a throat for receiving a kingpin. First and second structural support ribs extend downwardly from a bottom surface of the hitch plate. A pair of ears extend longitudinally between the first and second support ribs. Each ear includes an aperture adapted to receive a pivot pin to pivotably support the top hitch plate on a supporting structure. Each ear is substantially offset from at least a selected one of the first support rib and the second support rib.

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